

**AP English Literature and Composition**  
**Instructor: Mr. Niemann**

**Course Description**

Advanced Placement Literature and Composition, is a college-level course that follows the curriculum guidelines set out in the College Board's AP English Course Description. This course will provide students with challenges commensurate with an undergraduate English course and should inspire them to continue to explore the rich and varied offerings of Western Literature as well as works from other cultures that are written in English. We will read and respond to works from the 16<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries in a variety of genres including poetry, plays, short stories, essays and novels; works that embrace a panorama of the human experience. We will attempt to answer a number of questions:

- How are the struggles of humanity reflected in great works of literature?
- Why do the great works of the past continue to have relevance in our lives today?
- What does literature teach us about ourselves and about mankind in general?
- How can literature be a guidepost to the future?

Our work will involve close readings of the text in an attempt to analyze how various writers have struggled to create work that has extraordinary depth, deep aesthetic impact, and lasting relevance. While the goal of this course is to inspire students to continue to explore and examine literature, to love reading, and to luxuriate in the writer's use of language to achieve his or her goals, it is also to help them create fluid, well thought out, commentaries on great writing, to understand the tools writers bring to their craft and to be able to discuss the manner in which they use these tools to create lasting, deeply relevant works of art. It is our intention that students will become thoughtful, independent readers and writers, capable of responding personally to good writing, interpreting and evaluating the text, and writing lucid, informed critiques that offer their unique insight.

**Instructional Goals**

- Students will be able to comfortably respond to poetry and prose from different time periods and cultures and to interpret levels of meaning
- Students will be able to identify and analyze how devices such as figurative language, form, structure, rhyme, meter, allusion, syntax, and diction contribute to the total meaning of the work
- Students will be able to contribute their interpretation to class discussion and to join in group presentations
- Students will be able to write clear, well-organized, insightful critiques of a wide range of poetry and prose written in diverse styles
- Students will be able to develop a variety of sentence structures
- Students will be able to establish an effective use of rhetoric including controlling tone and a voice appropriate to their audience
- Students will learn to appreciate great works

## Grading Policy

**Formative Assessments:** 80% A variety of assessments will be used to track daily progress.

These include but are not limited to:

- Engagement in classroom discussions
- Completion of homework assignments
- Collaborative efforts
- Engagement in online exercises and tasks

**Summative Assessments:** 20% A variety of assessments will be used to track long-term progress.

These include but are not limited to:

- Formal typed papers
- Vocabulary Tests
- Timed writing
- Culminating unit projects
- AP English Literature Exam

## Course Materials

Include but are not limited to...

Abrams, M.H. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*

Bronte, Emily *Wuthering Heights*

Doerr, Anthony *All the Light We Cannot See*

Dundy, Elaine *The Dud Avocado*

Foster, Thomas C. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*

Gardner, John *Grendel*

Hawthorne, Nathaniel *The Scarlet Letter*

Heaney, Seamus *Beowulf*

Kennedy, X.J. and Gioia, Dana *An Introduction to Poetry*

Killgallon, Don and Killgallon, Jenny *Sentence Composing for High School*

Shakespeare, William *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*

Smith, Zadie *White Teeth*

Strunk, William and White, E.B. *The Elements of Style 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*

Swift, Jonathan *A Modest Proposal*